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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant : Ajay Bhatia et al.
Application No. : 10/007,693
Filed : December 5, 2001
For : COMPOUNDS AND METHODS FOR TREATMENT AND
DIAGNOSIS OF CHLAMYDIAL INFECTION
Examiner : Padmavathi Baskar
Art Unit : 1645
Docket No. : 210121.515C2
Date : February 19, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated November 21, 2002, please extend the period of time for response two months, to expire on February 21, 2003. Enclosed are a Petition for an Extension of Time and the requisite fee.

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated November 21, 2002, please amend the specification and claims as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 15, at lines 30-31, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a SEQ ID NO:139 sets forth the amino acid sequence of serovar E protein CT622.

Please replace the paragraph on page 16, at lines 1-2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a2 SEQ ID NO:140 sets forth the amino acid sequence of serovar E protein CT875.

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Please replace the paragraph on page 101, lines 15-26 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q3 Two full-length recombinant proteins, CT622 and CT875, were expressed in *E. coli*. Both of these genes were identified using CtLGVII expression screening, but the serovar E homologues were expressed. The primers used to amplify these genes were based on serovar D sequences. The genes were amplified using serovar E genomic DNA as the template. Once amplified, the fragments were cloned in pET-17b with a N-terminal 6X-His Tag. After transforming the recombinant plasmid in XL-I blue cells, the DNA was prepared and the clones fully sequenced. The DNA was then transformed into the expression host BL21-pLysS cells (Novagen) for production of the recombinant proteins. The proteins were induced with IPTG and purified on Ni-NTA agarose using standard methods. The DNA sequences for CTE622 and CTE875 are disclosed in SEQ ID NO:28 and 27 respectively, and their amino acid sequences are disclosed in SEQ ID NO: 139 and 140, respectively.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 101-102 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q4 Five additional *Chlamydia trachomatis* genes were cloned. The *Chlamydia trachomatis* specific protein CT694, the protein CT695, and the L1 ribosomal protein, the DNA sequences of which are disclosed in SEQ ID NO:119, 120 and 121 respectively. The protein sequences of these 6X-histidine recombinant proteins are disclosed in SEQ ID NO: 122 (CT694), 123 (CT695), and 124 (L1 ribosomal protein). The genes CT622 and CT875, from serovar E were also cloned using pET17b as 6X-His fusion proteins. These recombinant proteins were expressed and purified and their amino acid sequences disclosed in SEQ ID NO:139 and 140, respectively.

In the Claims:

Please add the following claims:

19. (New) A method for stimulating and/or expanding T cells specific for a Chlamydia protein, comprising contacting T cells with a composition comprising at least an immunogenic portion of a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 139;

(b) a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% identity with the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139; and

(c) a polypeptide sequence having at least 99% identity with the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139.

20. (New) A composition comprising a first component selected from the group consisting of physiologically acceptable carriers and immunostimulants, and a second component consisting of a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 139;

(b) a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% identity with the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139; and

(c) a polypeptide sequence having at least 99% identity with the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139.

Please cancel claims 10 and 12.

REMARKS

Applicants hereby elect Group V, Claims 10-12, drawn to a method for stimulating and/or expanding T-cells and T-cell populations, without traverse. Applicants also elect SEQ ID NO: 139, amino acid sequence of serovar E protein CT622. Claims 10 and 12 have been cancelled. Claims 11, 19 and 20 are now in the case. Claims 1-9, 13-18 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Applicants respectfully request that new claims 19 and 20 be added. Claims 19 and 20 replace claims 10 and 12 and reflect the selection of SEQ ID NO:139. It is Applicants' belief that newly added claims 19 and 20 correspond to Group V as defined by the Office. Amendments to the specification were also